

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A copolymer comprising the following monomers:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,

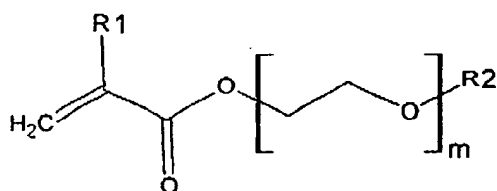
wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

2. (Currently amended) **The [A] copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer comprises comprising the following monomers:**

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a monomer **of the characterized by formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:**



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms

in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight.

3. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion **prepared by polymerizing obtainable by polymerization of** the following monomers in water **and** in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

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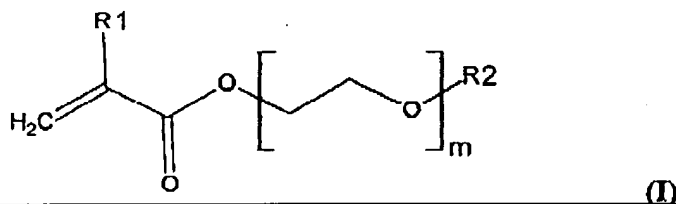
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acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;
methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and
a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

4. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing obtainable by polymerization of the following monomers in water and in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;
methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight;
and a monomer of the formula I and as described in claim 1 in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

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5. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing obtainable by polymerization of the following monomers in water and in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights ;

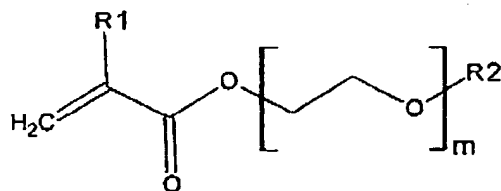
~~wherein if the emulsifying agent is an emulsifier with a molecular weight lower than 15 kD then it is partially or fully removed after the polymerization reaction.~~

6. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing obtainable by polymerization of the following monomers in water in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight;

and a monomer of the formula I and as described in claim 1 in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight;



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights ~~wherein if the emulsifying agent is an emulsifier with a molecular weight lower than 15 kD then it is partially or fully removed after the polymerization reaction.~~

7. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing obtainable by the polymerization of the following monomers in water:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight

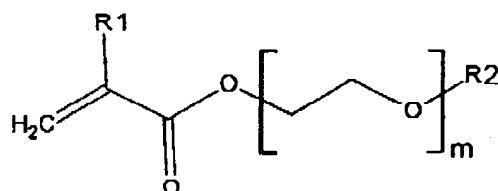
wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

8. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing obtainable by the polymerization of the following monomers in water:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight;

and a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight;



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

9. (Currently amended) A film for use in coating pharmaceutical formulations, wherein the film is prepared by removing obtainable by removal of water from an aqueous dispersion according to any one of claims 3 to 8.

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10. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising:

- a) a pharmaceutical core comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient; and
- b) a film coating comprising a film according to claim 9.

11. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient which is provided in a plurality of beads wherein each of the beads is coated with a film according to claim 9.

12. (Currently amended) The [A] formulation according to [either] claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the formulation is a controlled release formulation.

13. (Currently amended) The [A] formulation according to claim 11 or 12, ~~any one of claims 10-12~~ wherein the pharmacologically active ingredient has activity in the treatment of cardiovascular or gastrointestinal diseases.

14. (Currently amended) The [A] formulation according to claim 13, wherein ~~any one claim 10-12 in which~~ the pharmacologically active ingredient is a beta-blocking adrenergic agent.

15. (Currently amended) The [A] formulation according to claim 14 in which the pharmacologically active ingredient is metoprolol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (Currently amended) The [A] formulation according to claim 15, wherein ~~in which~~ the metoprolol salt is the tartrate, succinate, fumarate or benzoate salt.

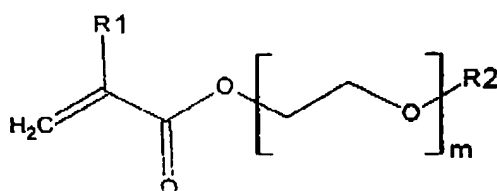
Claims 17-22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a copolymer, wherein the process comprises ~~polymer comprising~~ polymerizing the following monomers in water and in the presence of an emulsifier:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight[.]; and

a monomer of the characterized by formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms,

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight.

24. (Currently amended) The [A] process according to claim 23, wherein the process is carried out at a temperature in the range of 1 to 100°C.

25. (Currently amended) A process for preparing to prepare a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a pharmaceutically active ingredient contained in a pharmaceutical core or in a plurality of beads, wherein the process comprises as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 16 comprising coating the pharmaceutical core or each of the beads with a film coating dispersion according to as defined in any one of claims 3 to 8.

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26 (New) The aqueous polymer dispersion according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the emulsifying agent is an emulsifier with a molecular weight lower than 15 kD, and wherein the emulsifying agent is partially or fully removed after the polymerization reaction.